

1600  
THE  
IMPORTANCE  
OF  
*CAPE BRETON*  
CONSIDER'D;  
IN A  
LETTER  
TO A  
MEMBER of PARLIAMENT,

From an INHABITANT of

*NEW-ENGLAND.*



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S I R,

A T your repeated Request that I would collect and form from proper Materials, such an Account of the Island of *Cape Breton* as would shew forth its true Value, and being persuaded that this your Desire proceeded wholly from a sincere Regard for your Country's Welfare, which may hereafter possibly much depend on your right Apprehensions in this Particular, I have, tho' unequal to it, undertaken the Task; and as all things derive their Recommendation and Value from the Use they are of, I shall consider

B

*First,*

*First, The Usefulness of this Island to France; and*

*Secondly, It's Usefulness to Great Britain.*

With respect to *France*, it was useful to that Kingdom for the following Purposes.

1. This Island having the Harbour of *Louisbourg* well fortified, was a Place of safety for the Reception, Succour, and Protection of the Enemy's *East* and *West India* Fleets, and where they might rendezvous 'till provided with Convoy for their more secure Passage home.

2. The Enemy, by means of this Place, was enabled the more easily to supply their Sugar Colonies with Fish and Lumber: By these and other Advantages join'd to their Policy and prudent Management, 'tis notorious, they had before the War well nigh beaten the *English* quite out of the foreign Sugar Trade.

3. This Place was the Guard of the common Entrance into the Gulph of *St Lawrence*, and of the principal Passage

up to *Canada*, where of late the Enemy build large Ships of War, a thing, I believe, not known, or at least not much notic'd in this Kingdom : From thence a sixty-Gun Ship built there came down the Summer before last to *Louisbourg*, and sailing from thence, made a Cruize upon the *English*, took several Prizes of Consequence, and then returned to *Louisbourg*, and became part of the Convoy to six *East India* Ships put in there for Safety and Convoy, and to other valuable Ships, making up a Fleet of upwards of sixty Sail in the whole, proceeding with them to *France*. From *Canada* also the Enemy reap the Benefit of all the Furr Trade, from a large Part of the *American* Continent ; and from thence the Enemy joined by the *Savages* in Alliance with them, and whose Friendship they court by all possible Methods, issue out, Ravage, Burn, and Destroy the Outward *English* Settlements.

4. Upon this Island the *French* carried on a considerable part of their Cod-fishery,

and by means thereof they cover'd, supported, and protected all the rest. This Fishery they had of late Years greatly increased, to the proportionable Diminution and Prejudice of the *British* Fishery, and the large Trade thereon dependent; so that according to Accounts collected with Accuracy, Judgment and indefatigable Pains, it produced them yearly such Quantities of Fish and Oyl, as were of the Value of near a Million Sterling, upon a very moderate Computation; and which you are sensible, according to the Nature of Fisheries in general, was almost all clear Gain to them: A great Part of this Fish they carried to Spain and other foreign Markets, and there exchanged it for other Commodities, which they afterwards carried to other Ports, where they frequently made the like Exchanges, and then proceeded elsewhere, still increasing their Profits as they lengthen'd the Course of their Voyage, till the whole finally center'd in France: So that this Fishery was the Foundation of a great  
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 Part

Part of that large Trade, which they have  
of late carried on in many different Parts  
of the World : This was their original Out-  
set, or Stock whereon they traded, and  
which it must be confessed they improved  
to the utmost, thereby gaining daily on the  
*English*. And this Fishery was not only  
beneficial to them on account of the large  
immediate and consequential Profit produc'd  
by it, but it also employ'd in the taking,  
making, and transporting of the Fish  
caught, between 25 and 30,000 Fishermen  
and Seamen, the Fishermen being, or in  
Time becoming, good Seamen.—You are  
doubtless sensible, Sir, that the Marine in  
*France* has been put under excellent Regu-  
lations by their Ministers, since they apply'd  
themselves with so much Zeal and Dil-  
igence to the Advancement of their State by  
the Increase of their Navigation and Com-  
merce, as they have done of latter Years ;  
and among others, one wise Provision I  
have understood, was, that their Fish Ships  
should carry a Proportion of what they call

*Trente-*

*Trente-six-mois*, that is, Lads who were Bound for thirty six Months, in which Time they were supposed to become sufficiently qualified for the Business, and who therefore at the Expiration of that Time left the Class of Learners, making Room for other raw Lads, which every Year came into the Service. And thus this Fishery, by its Nature, Extent, Healthfulness, and the Policy of our Enemies, was their principal Nursery of Seamen, breeding up continually large Numbers of stout Sailors, so that they could with Ease annually or occasionally draw out of it a very considerable Number for manning their Royal Navy, or the Use of their other Navigation.

5. This Place, by its Situation with respect to the British Fishery, was well suited to answer our Enemy's ancient and present political maxim of *divide & impera*; for being situated between Newfoundland and Canfo, the two principal Seats

Seats of the *English* Fishery, the Enemy was enabled thereby greatly to distress and diminish, if not finally to destroy the whole; from thence, immediately after breaking out of the present War, they made a Descent upon *Canso* and burnt it, carrying away the Garrison and Inhabitants Prisoners; and from thence they had certainly attempted, and in all Probability carried, a valuable part of *Newfoundland*, had not a mere Contingency favourable to the *English* prevented.

6. This Place was very convenient for the Enemy, not only to fit out Privateers from thence, but also to receive, protect, repair and supply such as should come from *France*, and harbour all their Prizes, to the great and general Distress of all the *British American* Trade.

7. This Island was very convenient for the Enemy, as a safe Place of Rendezvous for any Armament that might be fitted out for the taking or destroying any of the *English Northern* Settlements. The adjacent

ja<sup>c</sup>ent Country of *Nova Scotia* having a fertile Soil, many excellent Harbours, and its Coasts and Rivers abounding with Fish, and being already settled, so far as any Settlements are made, with French Catho-licks, the Enemy regret the loss of it, and continually look upon it with a longing and eager Eye; the Dominion of that whole Country is held by the single Fort of *Annapolis Royal*, a Place of such doubtful Defence, that the Enemy have already sate down before it three different times during this War; and the Loss of the Place must have ensued, if Governor *Shirley*, with the Help of the Province under his Command, had not interpos'd and prevented it: But the Prudence, the Vigilance, the indefatigable Industry of this Gentleman, with the ready Assistance of that publick-spirited Province in sending Succours, join'd to those sent from hence to *Annapolis Royal*, could not have kept it much longer from falling into the Enemy's Hands without the Conquest of

Cape

Cape Breton; a Point acknowledg'd as unquestionable by all intelligent Persons well acquainted with the Situation of that Country.

But in order, Sir, fully to comprehend the Extent of this Island's Usefulness to France, it will be necessary, in my Opinion, to call to mind her fond Desire of becoming Mistress of all the Western World, and to consider what Measures chiefly advance her Design of making her self such: To the Attainment of this Purpose, you are sensible, she bends all her Counsels and Actions; for this she declares War, makes and breaks Treaties, unites and divides Kingdoms, and her Ministers practise all the Means and Devices that the most refin'd Policy can dictate; and among all the various Measures calculated for the Accomplishment of this grand destructive Project, there have been none, in my humble Opinion, more dangerous to this Kingdom in particular, or more likely to advance their Design in general, than

that successful Policy, whereby they have of late Years so greatly increas'd their Fisheries, Commerce and Colonies; thereby supplanting the English in divers of their principal Branches of Trade, and laying the Foundation of a most dangerous Naval Power. 'Tis remarkable that France made but a very inconsiderable Figure at Sea, till such Time as her Princes and Ministers forming their large Schemes of Empire, and observing that Commerce was one of the principal Means of making a People rich and powerful, they apply'd themselves with the greatest Diligence, Art, and Judgment to the Establishment of Manufactures, and the gaining and Increase of Plantations and Fisheries, and to the Encouragement of Trade and Navigation in every Shape; these were some of the principal Engines, wherewith they laboured to form that great Idol of Power, to which they hoped to make all Nations bend the Knee. Henry IV. indeed did wonders for that Kingdom, by settling the Regime  
 C 5

Silk, Linen, and other Manufactures; but Cardinal Richlieu, who drew the Outlines of the Plan for this general sweeping Dominion to be raised in the West, was, I think, the first who proposed an Empire of the Sea for France, and which was indeed requisite for the Attainment of the other, saying, "that Nature seems to have offered this Empire to her by the advantageous Situation of her two Coasts, equally provided with excellent Havens, on the Ocean, and on the Mediterranean." And Louis XIII. having erected a new Office for this great Minister, whereby he was constituted, *Grand Master, Head and Superintendant General of the Navigation and Commerce of France*, he, notwithstanding his being continually encompassed with an endless Variety of other weighty and perplexing Matters, with a View chiefly to advance the Naval Power of France, found Time to attend to the Care and Promotion of her Trade and Manufactures; and what was begun in the

Reigns of Henry IV. and Lewis XIII. To  
use the Words of an ingenious Author,\*  
 " was happily improved by the Care of  
 " the memorable Monsieur [Colbert], who  
 " under Lewis XIV. not only established  
 " every Thing that remained imperfect,  
 " but also gained by Art and Manage-  
 " ment, not only Fisheries and Plantations,  
 " but a Prospect of every others Improve-  
 " ment; by which means that Prince was  
 " able to maintain a War against the most  
 " powerful Confederacy, that ever has  
 " been formed in these latter Times, to  
 " surround his Kingdom and Frontiers  
 " with the strongest Fortresses in the  
 " World, to maintain an Army of above  
 " 300,000 Men during two long Wars,  
 " to dispute the Dominion of the Seas a-  
 " gainst the united Powers of England and  
 " Holland; an Expence supposed to be  
 " three times as large as ever that King-  
 " dom was capable of sustaining before.<sup>13</sup>

word oldsweldo sit' usW fist ed: When  
 \* See Mr. Bush's Preface to his Treatise on the Trade  
 and Navigation of Great Britain.

— When Mons<sup>r</sup>. Colbert framed this famous Plan for his Master's obtaining Universal Sway, to prevent the Execution whereof those powerful Confederacies were form'd, you are sensible he laid the Foundation of it, in the Increase and Improvement of Labour, Manufactures, and Foreign Trade, and that he made a Command at Sea, a principal Part of it; proposing that his Prince, in order to his Exaltation to the desir'd Pinnacle of Glory, should keep such Fleets on the Ocean, as would make him Master of all the Powers and Trade of the North. His Plan, I think, the Enemy have ever since pursued, departing from it only as Circumstances and Occasions required: and all the Battles fought, and Victories gain'd by the Confederates, only made that aspiring Nation to suspend for a Time her Thoughts, not of pursuing, but of executing her darling Project; and when the Terms of Peace came to be settled at the End of the last War, 'tis observable how hard she struggled for the Island of Cape Breton,

( 14 )

Conqueror, and  
Breton, and by what Arts and Policy she  
practis'd to gain it, well knowing that it  
was a Place containing plentiful Seeds of  
that Naval Power, which she hoped in  
Time to rear up to the Overthrow of the  
British Navigation and Commerce, and the  
Advancement of her beloved Scheme of  
Dominion. Where Strength failed, the most  
subtle Artifices and Management were ne-  
cessary; by these therefore she carry'd her  
Point; and, which is observable, France  
was not content with having the Island  
wholly resign'd up to her, without having  
an express Agreement made that she might  
have all manner of Liberty to fortify any  
Place or Places there.

From the Peace of Utrecht to the Com-  
mencement of the present War, Cardinal  
*Fleury* having had for the far greater Part  
of the Time the Administration of the  
Affairs of France in his Hands, he, I think,  
may be said to have made War upon this  
Kingdom by all the Arts of Peace, espe-  
cially by his continual Care and politick

Advance-

Advancement of their Commerce, and which was thereby enlarged within this last Period of Time to a Degree astonishing even to Persons well Skill'd in Trade; which Increase fell chiefly and heavily upon the *English*, either directly lessening their Trade in divers of its principal Articles, or preventing the Growth of it; and in effecting this, *Cape Breton* was exceedingly helpful to him; and his Sense of its Importance was such, that he laid out an immense Sum for his Master in order to secure it, fortifying it to such a Degree that it was generally deem'd impregnable. This great Man seem'd to be well aware of the Necessity of observing the Caution given to the *French* King by Monsieur *Colbert*, when he form'd the Scheme for his obtaining universal Monarchy, telling him, that tho' " all Things conspired to give *France* Hopes of Success, the Work however was such as must be leisurely carried on, and perfected by little and little; so great a Design continually alarm-

" alarming Europe, Asia, Africa, and America,  
 " Friends and Foes, the Precipitation of it would be its Ruin." And had  
 the Conduct of this great Genius, together with *Cape Breton* and the Cod-fishery, been  
 continued to *France* for some Years longer, there would, I fear, have been some Danger  
 of their telling us by the Fact, what Monsieur *Colbert* proposed in Words to the  
 King of *France*, viz. " That the Point  
 " of *Britannia* is the Gate to enter into,  
 " and go out of the Channel, fifty Ships  
 " of War at *Brest* would keep those Gates  
 " fast shut, and they would not open them  
 " but at the King's Command.

How fatal to the *British* Interests the Enemy's Possession of this Place might  
 have been, has been already shewn in some Measure; but it will be more evident upon  
 further considering the Value of the Cod-fishery, whereof this Place gave the Enemy the chief Command. It is, I think, a certain Maxim in Politicks, that all States  
 are powerful at Sea, as they flourish in the

Fishing

Fishing Trade ; the Coast-fishing of this Kingdom, in the Judgment of an excellent Author \*, is of all others the greatest Nursery for Seamen ; and large Fisheries, such as the American Cod-fishery is, are certainly some of the main Sources of Wealth and Power. This will, perhaps, be best illustrated by considering the Case of Holland and the Herring Fishery ; and to make some Amends for my own defective Manner of treating the principal Matter, for your Ease and Gratification in this particular Point, I shall quote a few Observations out of some Authors of the first Rank.

In the Reign of King Charles I. there was an Excellent Discourse written by Sir John Burroughs, and presented to the King, by the Title of *The Inestimable Riches and Commodities of the British Seas* ; wherein the Author, after giving an Account of the Seasons and great Plentifulness of the Fishing-Harvest in those Seas, says thus : " Out of which wonderful Affluence and Abundance

" dance of Fish swarming in our Seas, that  
 " we may the better perceive the infinite  
 " Gain which foreign Nations make, I  
 " will especially insist upon the Fishing of  
 " the *Hollanders* in our Coasts, and there-  
 " by shew how by this Means principally,  
 " they have encreased, 1st, in Shipping—  
 " 2. In Mariners — 3. In Trade — 4.  
 " In Towns and Fortifications — 5. In  
 " Power Extern or Abroad.—6. In pub-  
 " lic Revenue—7. In private Wealth—  
 " 8. In all Manner of Provisions and Store  
 " of Things necessary." Which several  
 Articles the Author proceeds to consider  
 and maintain; and under his first Head  
 enumerating the various Sorts of Vessels  
 emloyed in the Fishing Business from the  
 first setting out, in fetching Salt to cure the  
 Fish caught, to the final Delivery of the  
 whole at foreign Markets, and computing  
 their several Numbers, he makes the whole  
 Number of Ships and Busses then plying  
 the Herring Fair to be 6400, employing  
 112000 Fishers and Mariners, besides 1600  
 Ships

Ships employed in taking Cod and Ling on  
 the Coasts of *England* and *Scotland*, and 400  
 other Vessels taking Herring at *Yarmouth* ;  
 so that, besides the Ships fishing on their  
 own Shores, he says, " The *Hollanders*  
 " have at least 8400 Ships only maintain'd  
 " by the Seas of *Great Britain*, by which  
 " Means principally *Holland* have increas'd  
 " the Number of their Shipping to at least  
 " 10,000 Sail, being more than are in  
 " *England*, *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*,  
 " *Denmark*, *Poland*, *Sweden* and *Russia* ;  
 " and to this Number they add every Day,  
 " altho' their Country itself affords them  
 " neither Materials or Victual, nor Mer-  
 chandise to be accounted of towards  
 " their setting forth." And under the  
 Seventh Head the Author says, " Du-  
 ring the Wars between the King of  
 " *Spain* and the *Hollanders* before the last  
 " Truce, *Dunkirk*, by taking, spoiling,  
 " and burning the Buffes of *Holland*, and  
 " setting great Ransom upon their Fisher-  
 " men, enforced them to compound for

" great Sums that they might fish quietly  
 " for one Year ; whereupon the next  
 " Year after, the Fishermen agreed among  
 " themselves to pay a Dollar upon every  
 " Last of Herrings towards the Mainte-  
 " nance of certain Ships of War to waft  
 " and secure them in their Fishing ; by  
 " reason whereof there was a Record kept  
 " of the several Lasts of Herrings taken that  
 " Year, and it appeared that in one half  
 " Year there were taken 300,000 Lasts of  
 " Herrings, which at 12 £ per Last a-  
 " mounteth to 3,600,000 £, and at 16,  
 " 20, 30 £. the Last, they are ordinarily  
 " sold for when transported into other  
 " Countries, it cometh at least to Five  
 " Millions.

The famous Pensionary of Holland, *De Wit*, in giving an Account of the various Courses and Shiftings of Trade, and speaking of the Easterlings, says, " By that Eastern Trade they became and con-  
 tinued the only Traffickers and Car-  
 riers by Sea, beating by that means,  
 " all

“ all other Nations out of the Ocean, till  
 “ after the Year 1400, that the Art of  
 “ salting and curing of Herrings being  
 “ found out in *Flanders*, the Fisheries in  
 “ these *Netherlands*, being added to our  
 “ Manufactures, proved to be of more  
 “ Importance than the Trade and Navi-  
 “ gation of the Easterlings.

Monsieur *Huet*, a famous Author, who made the Commerce of the Ancients and Moderns his particular Study, and was one of those Persons, whom the *French* out of Policy have sent into the principal trading Countries to inspect their Management, and pry into the Secrets of their Trade, in his Memoirs of the *Dutch* Trade, says,  
 “ It is certain that there were some Ma-  
 “ nufactures established in *Holland* long  
 “ before their Fishery, Traffick and Na-  
 “ vigation; but then this was so incon-  
 “ siderable a Matter, that it may be truly  
 “ said, that the Fishery gave Birth to their  
 “ Traffick and Navigation;” and then adds,  
 “ This was the Opinion of M. *de Wit*,  
 “ and

" and the most understanding Persons in  
" Holland.

I beg Leave now to produce the Authority of the States General themselves, who in the Year 1624 published their Proclamation for the Preservation of this Fishery, wherein they set forth its Worth in these Words : " The great fishing and catching of Herrings is the chiefest Trade and principal Gold Mine of the United Provinces, whereby many Thousands of Households, Families, Handicrafts, Trades, and Occupations are set on Work, well maintained and prosper ; especially the Sailing and Navigation, as well within as without these Countries, is kept in great Estimation ; moreover many Returns of Money, with the Increase of the Means, Convoys, Customs and Revenue of these Countries, are augmented thereby, and prosper.

After such an Authority it will be needless to cite any more to prove the Thing I intended, viz, that the Wealth and Power

Power of the United Provinces by Sea and Land principally grew out of the Fishing Trade, and, which is very remarkable, out of the Fisheries on the British Coasts. And here I can't but observe, that as the chief Strength and Riches of the *Hollanders* came out of the *British Seas*, the same might possibly have been placed on the *British* instead of the *Belgick Shore*, thereby greatly enriching and strengthening this Kingdom, and making it the sole Maritime Power; and in that Case this Nation could never have been driven to the Necessity of contending sometimes with the *Hollanders*, by reason of their possessing this great Wealth and Strength, and at other times with other Powers, to preserve them to the *Hollanders*, for fear of their falling into worse hands. Upon the whole, I hope these Observations will not appear foreign to my purpose, as the Consideration of the ill Consequences, which have arisen to this Kingdom, by reason of the *Hollanders* having drawn their vast Treas-

sures

sures out of the *British* home Seas, and of the good Consequences that must have ensued upon the *English* having taken those Treasures to themselves, may be very helpful towards seeing the Consequences, that must have followed, if *France*, the natural, and therefore unchangeable Enemy of *Britain*, had still been at full Liberty to take the like Treasures out of the Fisheries on the Coasts of the ancient *British* Territories in *America*, and also the Consequences, that must attend their being taken by the *English*.

What has been produced touching the Herring Fishery, I think, Sir, fully proves the great National Advantages that may be derived from large Fisheries in general; and it will, I suppose, be needless to observe, that the Difference in the Species of Fish makes no Difference in the Emoluments arising from the Fishery: With respect to the Profit, that depends on the Quantity of Fish caught and sold, and the Price given for it: And as Cod-fish is become a considerable

siderable Part of the Food of divers Countries, there can be no Question made, in my Opinion, of its yielding a good Price to those, who have the Command of that Fishing Trade : And with respect to the Quantity of Fish, which the *American Cod-fishery* yields, it is certain that it far surpasses all others for that Species of Fish in the World. To what Degree it may in Time be prosecuted, I believe is impossible for any one to say ; how far the *French* have already carried it, has been shewn, and by adding their Share of that Fishery to the Share the *English* enjoyed before, the Amount of the whole, without regarding its possible Increase and Improvement, must be a Fund of exceeding great Wealth. Consider it as a Nursery of Seamen, and it will be found to have bred up as hardy, rigged, sturdy and able Sailors as any in the whole World : In this view alone the *French* look upon it as an inestimable Treasure, not only considered in itself, but also as the Stock, upon

which a vast Increase of Seamen employed  
in other Trades dependent upon the Fishery  
is grafted; so that for my own Part, I have  
always esteemed it one of the chief Means,  
by which the French have enriched and ag-  
grandized their Nation, and spread their  
Power to such a Degree over the Face of  
the Earth.

To conclude: From what has been said  
it appears, that while the French continued  
in the Possession of Cape Breton, they had  
in their Hands the most probable Means  
and the fairest Opportunity to support and  
increase their own Fishery, Commerce and  
Colonies, to destroy the British Fishery, to  
distress the whole British American Trade,  
to conquer a large and valuable Part of  
the Continent of America washed by the  
Sea, to open wide the Flood-gates of their  
Power, and to make an irreparable Breach  
in the British Dominions; and to sum up  
all in a Word, this Place by its Strength  
and Situation, considered with the various  
Settlements of the two Nations, and the  
Course

Course of their Country, Trade and Navigation, was necessarily a Place of the last Importance to France.

Having considered the Usefulness of this Island to France, I shall proceed to consider, in the second Place, its Usefulness to this Kingdom: This has, indeed, necessarily been shewn in some Measure already under the first Head; but yet it is proper, I conceive, to explain some Things a little further, and their Relation to Great Britain more particularly, to add some new Matter, and to point out the various Benefits that will accrue to the Kingdom by our late Conquest of this Place, and by our keeping Possession of it for the Time to come: besides which it will be of great Advantage to us to have a safe and convenient Harbour, and a good Road to America, and from America will be rendered more secure,

and the Trade of the Nation in general will thrive and increase.

3<sup>dly</sup>, The Cod-fishery, that great Nursery of Seamen, will be restored to the English, the first and original Possessors of it.

4<sup>thly</sup>, The Consequence of all these Points gain'd will be the great Growth and Increase of the Naval Power of the Kingdom.

5<sup>thly</sup>, By this Acquisition the British Colonies are united and strengthened, and those of the Enemy divided and broken.

As the three first of these Points do almost necessarily follow from what has been already said, I shall enlarge but little thereon, designing chiefly in the Sequel to trouble you with a few Observations on the two last. And here I cannot help lamenting, that while this Nation has been employing her Arms and Treasures to preserve the Balance of Power on the Continent of Europe, we should in the mean time

time have lost Sight of our true Interest so far, as to suffer the *French* to throw so much Weight into their own Scale of Power at Sea : How far this Fishery, whilst in *their* Hands, has contributed to it, and how far it may be serviceable in ours towards the Recovery of what we have lost, I shall submit to your Consideration; observing, that as the State of the Marine World in general is greatly changed from what it was in former Times, so the comparative Degrees of Skill of the *English* and *French* in Sea Affairs are also greatly varied. You may remember, Sir, that in the second Year of the Reign of *Henry III.* when *Louis* (afterwards the Eighth of *France*) was possessed of the City of *London*, and of divers other Parts of this Kingdom, having bid fair for gaining the whole, *Philip* his Father sent a Fleet of about 80 Sail of large Ships to transport Forces from *France* in support of his Cause; this Fleet was met by 40 *English* Ships, who gave the *French* Battle, and took and sunk

sunk the greatest Part of them; and 'tis observable the Historians say that hitherto to the French were not accustomed to Fights by Sea, and ascribe their Defeat to their Want of Naval Skill; but of the English they say, "That they, being war-like and skilled in Sea-fights, sunk their Ships, &c." And the famous Selden, in his *Mare Clausum*, cites an Author contemporary with the Fact, who says, "That in the Month of May 1294 there fell out a Quarrel between the Seamen of the Cinque Ports of England and the Seamen of France, and it was determined by a Fight at Sea wherein the English, with a Fleet of one hundred Sail, took two hundred Ships of France, and drown'd or kill'd almost all the Seamen of France." You are sensible, Sir, that the Fates of Kingdoms often depend much on the Events of general Battles by Sea or Land; and what the several Degrees of Skill of the two Nations are at present, with respect to Engagements

ments by Sea, you are a much better Judge than myself: But I believe we must do our Enemies the Justice to own, that of late they are come considerably nearer to an Equality of Behaviour with us in Naval Encounters than they were formerly; and as all Men are alike by Nature, there being, I suppose, no Difference between them, but what the Policy of their several Governments forming their Manners, or the Degrees of their own Experience makes, I believe that the Difference of the present from the former Behaviour of the French at Sea, proceeds chiefly from that great Application to Sea Affairs, which the Policy of their Government at first forc'd in a great Measure upon that Nation: But, as a judicious Writer of the last Reign observes, "The Profits and Advantages they have gained in their Voyages, and by Privateering, have brought a great many to like the Sea; so that Trade and Navigation is become in that Kingd<sup>m</sup> no longer to be the Effect of Force and

" and Art, but to arise from a Genius in  
 " the People by Custom and Practice a-  
 " dapted to it, and the Interest they re-  
 " ceive from it." \* With respect to  
 Naval Architecture, I think it must be  
 allowed that they have so far improv'd  
 their Skill therein, that they are not much,  
 if at all, surpassed by any other Nation in  
 building Ships either for Speed or martial  
 Strength; and with respect to their Na-  
 val Force in general, I desire to cite from  
 the Author last mentioned the following  
 Observation made after the End of the last  
 War, viz. " That it highly concerns us,  
 " in any Councils relating to our Traf-  
 " fick, to have this Consideration ever in  
 " our Eye, that tho' we destroyed so  
 " many capital Ships of *France* the two  
 " last Wars, yet that in some Sense the  
 " Naval Strength of *France* is rather in-  
 " creas'd than diminish'd.—There needs  
 " not many Arguments to prove this, when  
 " we reflect that Naval Power does not so  
 " much

\* See Mr. Wood's Survey of Trade, p. 319.

Paged wrongly to the end.

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" much consist in Number of Frigates as  
" in able Seamen ; Ships may be built at  
" Home or purchas'd Abroad, and can  
" never be wanting to those, who abound  
" in Money, which *France* constantly  
" will, whilst she is suffer'd to trade  
" in the *Spanish West-Indies* or *South-Seas*,  
" and to the *Brazils*; but good and skill-  
" ful Sailors must be bred up in Action,  
" and in course of Time.—Their Priva-  
" teers were a constant Nursery, and with-  
" out doubt have bred them up very great  
" Numbers of able Seamen, which must  
" in all Likelihood put that Government  
" upon endeavouring to make their fo-  
" reign Traffick more extensive than it  
" has formerly been." \* The Perspi-  
" cuity and Pertinence to the present Point  
and present Times of what is here said by  
this Author, who by the Strength of his  
Judgment foretold in some Measure the  
late wonderful Increase of the French  
Commerce, is such that no Application

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by

\* See the same Treatise, p. 317.

by any Words of mine are at all wanted; but I think it may be said upon the whole, that considering the constant Labour and great Judgment wherewith the French cultivate their Naval Power, it is not impossible that the Superiority of Britain over France at Sea may hereafter wholly depend on the Quantity of Ground, which the former shall possess and be able to maintain in the whole Field; and from what has been said, with a little of your own Reflection, it will, I presume, plainly appear, that the Cod-fishing Grounds are not only a very large, but a very fertile Part of that Soil.

As to the Accession of Unity and Strength recovered to the British Colonies by the Conquest of Cape Breton, give me Leave to observe, that besides our Sargasso Islands, the British Empire in America is now actually in our Possession, & stretches at least 1500 Miles on the main Ocean entire, and without any Breaks that is, from the South Bounds of Georgia to the

North-end of Newfoundland; and as this Acquisition is of great Consequence in Point of Security to the English Northern Colonies, and to the Trade of Great Britain to all her Colonies, its Value to this Kingdom on that account cannot be known without considering the Value of these Colonies, and the Trade carry'd on from hence to them all: The Importance of the Subject, and the Frequency of Mistakes concerning it is such, that it were much to be wish'd some Person, who has sufficient Time and Talents, would do it Justice in every Particular; all I shall trouble you with at present is, that the British Colonies produce a Variety of necessary and useful Commodities not produc'd in this Kingdom, but imported into it from thence, and which you must otherwise purchase of Foreigners with ready Money; and they produce you not only Commodities for your own Consumption, but such an Overplus, that what was formerly carried to foreign Markets was one great

Means of this Kingdom's drawing a Balance in its Favour on the Foot of the Account of divers Trades abroad ; they are moreover continually sending hither Quantities of Gold and Silver by their Ships pick'd up in divers Trades, which they beat out to other Countries ; and they take from you their Cloathing, Household Furniture, and the Implements of their different Trades and Labour, some of them wholly, and the rest in various Proportions, employing thereby Handicraftsmen and Artificers innumerable. How large a Vent the Colonies on the Continent only are for your Woollen Goods, you may better judge, Sir, after being informed of one Thing, of the Truth whereof I assure you, viz. That it now is, and for a long Time has been, a great Question among Persons the best acquainted with these Countries, whether in all the vast Tract of Land abovemention'd, which comprehends the very coldest Climates in the British Dominions, they grow Wool enough to supply all the Inhabitants with

with Stockings only; and as for the South-  
ern Colonies, the Inhabitants are wholly  
clad in what they receive from hence,  
and they also continually take off your  
Hands a great Variety of other Things in  
large Quantities, and produce you not only  
Sugar, a very important Article in Trade, but  
likewise divers other Articles to a very great  
Value in the whole. And in order to shew  
what Influence the British Colonies in ge-  
neral have had on the British Navigation,  
I desire to produce the Testimonies of  
others, whom I take for unquestionable  
Witnesses. Sir *Jofiah Child* said of them in  
his Time, "That our Plantations, spend-  
ing mostly our English Manufactures,  
and those of all Sorts almost in egregious  
Quantities, and employing near two  
Thirds of all our English Shipping, do  
therein give a constant Sustenance, &c.  
And Mr. *Wood*, an Author already cited, in  
his Survey of Trade, † says thus, "I shall

\* See his Discourse of Trade, p. 203. † See the Be-  
gining of his third Part.

" now proceed to say something of our  
 " Colonies and Plantations in America,  
 " which, together with our Newfoundland  
 " Fishery, have been the chief Increase  
 " of our Navigation and Seamen, and the  
 " greatest Encouragement to both, on  
 " which Account, as well as in regard to  
 " their Product, they are of the utmost  
 " Consequence for us to preserve and en-  
 " courage." And afterwards this Au-  
 thor makes an Observation, first made, if  
 I mistake not, by Sir *Joseph Child*, viz.  
 " That no Trades deserve so much our Care  
 " to procure and preserve, and Encourage-  
 " ment to prosecute, as those that employ  
 " the most Shipping, altho' the Commo-  
 " dities carry'd be of small Value in them-  
 " selves, as a great part of the Commodi-  
 " ties from our Colonies are; For besides  
 " the Gain abounding by the Goods, the  
 " Freight in such Trades, often more than  
 " the Value of the Goods, is all Profit to

" the  
 " Page 53. A has abs't ed: no other T did see +  
 " See p. 53. A has abs't ed: no other T did see +  
 " See p. 53. A has abs't ed: no other T did see +

" the Nation; and they likewise bring with  
 " them a great Access of Power by the In-  
 " crease of Ships and Seamen, the proper  
 " Strength and Security of this Kingdom."  
 And Mr. Gee, in his Treatise on Trade  
 and Navigation, speaking of the Plan-  
 tations, says, " There is another Advantage  
 " we receive by our Plantations, which is  
 " hardly so much as thought on, I mean  
 " the prodigious Increase of our Ship-  
 " ping." But notwithstanding the great  
 Usefulness of the Plantations to their Mo-  
 ther Country, it has been not long since,  
 whatever it is now, a Matter of Question  
 with some whether they were not preju-  
 dicial to Great Britain, and a moot Point  
 with others whether any Advantage to it;  
 and they have not even wanted their open  
 Enemies, whose chief Objection against  
 them has been, that they had prejudic'd  
 the Mother Kingdom by draining it of its  
 People. To this it has been answered;

Ist,

+ See his Treatise on the Trade and Navigation of  
 Great Britain, p. 104.

1st, That the greatest Part of the Persons, who settled the *English* Plantations, left the Kingdom by reason of Distresses attending particular Times, or on such Occasions as would have carry'd them to other Countries, so as to have been wholly lost to the *English*, had they not gone and settled in *America*; 2dly, That the Inhabitants of the Colonies produce to this Kingdom a Profit far greater than the like Number of Inhabitants remaining in it, besides contributing so largely to the Increase of its Navigation; and this has been shewn by divers Calculations made, in some of which all the Inhabitants of the Colonies have been considered collectively, and in others some of them separately, and the Profits arising from them to the Publick have been compared with the Profits arising from the Inhabitants of *Great Britain* Man for Man, and those proceeding from the former have appeared to exceed those yielded by the latter greatly: And to this it may be added, that the Settlement of the *Eng-*

*ish*

*lish* on the Continent of *America* has been the Means of considerable Numbers coming from other Countries thither to join them, thereby greatly increasing the Number of *British* Subjects, and consequently enriching the *British* Dominions : And in order to try the Policy and Prudence of any Measures, I think it is fair and proper to consider what probably would have been the Case, if those Steps had not been taken : Now let it be considered what would have happened if the *English* had not made their Settlements in *America* ; and I think it must be granted, that in all Probability that whole Country now possessed by the *English*, or the far greatest Part of it, would have been possessed by the *French*, together with what they already enjoy ; and the Consequence of that, I think, must have been fatal to this Kingdom : The Riches they have gained out of those Parts of *America*, now or lately in their Possession, have in a great Measure help'd them to become in the highest

Degree formidable to the rest of Europe; but if the whole Wealth and Naval Strength that has been collected by the English, out of their American Plantations, or the most considerable Share of it, had been added to the Power of France, how could we have kept up, I will not say the Honour, but the mere Name alone of the British Flag? Into what pernicious and destructive Hands must the boasted, the envied Sovereignty of the Seas have fall'n? And in consequence thereof, what a dreadful Sacrifice must we have beheld before this Time of the Trade, the Religion, the Laws, the Liberties, the Independency of Great Britain? But the View is too terrible, and the Subject too shocking to dwell upon; and therefore I shall go on to observe, that France by what she has done plainly shews us what she is ambitious and capable of doing; she has entertained for some Time past so high and just a Sense of the Value of her Plantations, that those Mines of Treasure, by means of the libe-

ral

\* See the Memory of the Debates of the County of Gloucester, &c.

ral Encouragement she constantly bestows upon them, are not only much enlarged and improved, but new ones also have been found out and work'd upon with the greatest Diligence and Success. In the Year 1701, the Deputies of the Council of Commerce, in one of their Memorials to the Court of France, express themselves in the following Words, viz. "The English with less Advantages than we, and in Territories of less Extent, have found Means to employ yearly above 500 Ships, while we do not without great Difficulty employ + 100." But it is melancholy to see how much the Scene is changed, the French now actually employ more Ships than the English in that Branch of the American Trade, to which this Memorial refers.

To set forth to the full Extent the Value of the British Plantations to their Mother Country would perhaps be a harder Task than to lay open the particular Usefulness of Cape Breton to them: According

<sup>†</sup> See the Memorial of the Deputies of the Council of Commerce, p. 1.

to a Computation made about the Beginning of the last Reign, the annual Exports from thence of British Manufactures, native Product and foreign Commodities to all the British Colonies, as well Southern as Northern, for their own Use, and to carry on their Trade to other Countries, amounted at least to two Millions per Annum; and if you will suppose, as of Necessity you must, a Profit in the Returns for those Exports, the Imports from thence must have amounted to a much larger Sum, besides the Freight of the whole. And by an Account taken the Beginning of the present Reign of the Number of Ships and their Tonage enter'd inwards from the Plantations in America, from Christmas 1720, to Christmas 1730, it appear'd that there was employ'd in that Trade no less than 6607 Ships of 645704 Tons in the whole, and navigated by 52856 Sailors, reckoning eight Sailors to every Ship, without taking in the Number of Ships, Tonage and Sailors employed

ployed between Colony and Colony, or solely on the Fishing Banks, which will make an Increase of no less than a fourth Part to be added to the Account; since that time the Inhabitants of the Northern Colonies are become much more numerous, and their Demands for English Goods are increas'd in Proportion to their Numbers, or near it.

And I think it is worthy of Notice, that these Colonies are not only in a direct and immediate Tendency serviceable to their Mother Country, but indirectly, and by their mutual Dependance upon each other: The Northern Colonies would find it extremely difficult to subsist without the Sugar Islands, and the Sugar Islands without them, and the Mother Country would languish without both; so that the true and real Interests of all are strongly link'd and interwoven together; it is the Busines, it is the Duty of the Colonies to be subservient to the Policy and Trade of Great Britain, and on the other Hand it is no less

less the Concern of Great Britain to the  
 Fish and support the Colonies in the most  
 tender and effectual Manner. Now in  
 the last Reign, divers Persons well  
 acquainted with the ways of enriching a  
 Nation propos'd the supplying of this  
 Kingdom with Naval Stores of all kinds  
 from the Plantations; instead of being sup-  
 plied from the English Country, by which  
 means the Nation would be in possession of  
 these necessary Commodities, I when I pleas  
 d, in the own Plantations, than which  
 coming out of the Baltic, where it was  
 possible the Balance of Power might alter,  
 and an Enemy to Great Britain become  
 possess'd of it; in which case the want of  
 Naval Stores, things absolutely necessary  
 for the Security and Trade of the Kingdom,  
 would be attended with pernicious Con-  
 sequences; and by having them from  
 your own Plantations, instead of purchasing  
 them from other Countries in a great mea-  
 sure with Money, which when paid is  
 utterly lost to the Kingdom, you would  
 b' ylqqv? exchange

exchange them for your own Manufactures,  
 thereby saving every Year a large Sum to  
 the Nation, and giving Employment to  
 your own People, to the great Improve-  
 ment of your Northern Colonies, the suc-  
 cession of your Seamen and Navigation, and  
 the general Security and Advantage of his  
 Majesty's Dominions : And Mr. George  
 Gombleman of very extensive and accurate  
 Knowledge in Trade, afterwards propos'd  
 such further Improvements of the Northern  
 Colonies, and this Trade from thence, as  
 properly encourage'd and regulated would  
 yield to this Kingdom, according to his  
 Computation, a yearly Profit of above a  
 Million, besides supplying the Work of  
 England, Scotland and Ireland with plentie  
 of Hemp and Flax, thereby giving Em-  
 ployment to a Million of People supposed  
 to be then out of Work, and adding that  
 that means yearly to the publick Stocke  
 bove a Million more. And upon the  
 Czar of Muscovy and the King of Sweden  
 forming a Designto prevent your being  
 excluded supply'd

Supply'd with Naval Stores from their Dominions, otherwise than at their own Prices and in their own Shipping, Great Britain took such Measures, that some Species of Naval Stores have been since produc'd in the Plantations in large Quantities, to the great Benefit of the Publick; It is true in some others of great Consequence, little has been done; and as for Iron, that is so far from being yet encourag'd, that Plantation Bar-Iron is, I think, still chargeable to pay Duty as foreign Iron, and there is a small Duty, I believe, still chargeable upon Plantation Pig-Iron; and to shew what large Sums are paid by the Nation abroad for this Article, I beg leave to cite a remarkable Passage of Mr. Gee's, who after proposing a Method of supplying the Kingdom from the Plantations with what Iron could not be made in it, expresses himself in these Words: " And thus we might save the large Sums we pay for what is now brought from Sweden and other foreign Countries, which is greater than

than I could have imagin'd, 'till I had  
 lately seen an Account of the whole  
 Quantity of Iron exported from Stock-  
 holm and Gottenburg to the several Parts  
 of Europe in the Year 1729; whereby  
 it appears that there was shipp'd for  
 Great Britain and Ireland, from those  
 two Ports only (besides what we had  
 from Spain, Norway and Russia) above  
 19,000 Tons, and but little above 12,000  
 to all the other Ports of Europe, and to  
 France particularly not 200 Tons, so  
 careful is that Government not to buy  
 from other Countries what they can  
 possibly supply themselves with at home,  
 a Policy which naturally tends to make  
 them grow Rich \*. Sound Policy I  
 think plainly requires, that whatever the  
 Mother Country cannot produce for her  
 use, should, if possible, be produc'd in her  
 Plantations, the Whole being truly but one  
 Country, and having one common Interest a-  
 gainst all other Nations; and if the Extent  
 of Country in the British Plantations be

H consider'd,

\* See the Supplement to the 3d Edition of Mr. Gitt's Treatise on Trade, &c.

consider'd together with the Fertility of Soil of divers of them, and the natural Produce of the Latitudes they cross, it will appear, that they may be certainly render'd an inexhaustible Fund of Wealth to this Kingdom: They are without Question capable of producing, in time, and upon sufficient Encouragement, all the Naval Stores now imported from foreign Countries: And as *Carolina*, *Virginia*, *Maryland* and *Pensilvania* abound with white Mulberry-Trees, and the Samples of Silk sent over from thence have been of an excellent Staple, much resembling that of *Piedmont*, they might unquestionably produce large Quantities of the best raw Silk; and as one Man may raise in the rough what it requires many to manufacture, they might, over and above what they already produce, be made to raise an abundance of rough Materials, especially the large and valuable Articles of Hemp, Flax and Silk to be sent over and manufactur'd here, which would necessarily cause a very large

large additional Intercourse of Trade between Great Britain and her Colonies, a great Increase of Seamen, an Employment of many Hands in the Plantations, and of many more here; and all the Sums given as **Bounties** by this Kingdom for Encouragement to prosecute these things there (and without sufficient Encouragement given for a time, they will not be carry'd on to effect, by reason of the great Difficulties naturally attending such Undertakings in their Beginnings) are in effect paid to the Inhabitants of this Kingdom; for what ever Sums are receiv'd on Importation are directly lay'd out in your Manufactures, to be sent over to the Plantations, as indeed every thing that the Inhabitants of the Colonies can raise out of the Earth or Seas, or gain in their Traffick with others, finally centers here; and the Lands and People are in my Opinion, far more valuable to this Kingdom than a Quantity of Land equal to what is contain'd in this Island would be, if it was rais'd out of the

Sea, join'd to this Island and inhabited by a Number of Persons equal to the Number of the Inhabitants of the Colonies, because they produce many necessary and valuable Commodities not produc'd in this Country or Climate, and by lying beyond the Seas they occasion a vast Employment of Ships and Seamen; and as they are exceedingly valuable to their Mother Country already, they may be made to encrease more and more daily, the Riches and Power of Great Britain, continually helping it much to vye with France both in Peace and War? And really, Sir, under due Encouragement, the Usefulness of the Colonies to this Kingdom would be without bounds: The Inhabitants in general are industrious and frugal, and if they are not yet arrived in any measure to that pitch of Improvement they are capable of, it is because, on the one hand their different Climates, Soils and natural Productions are not consider'd at home with the Attention, which is necessary to put those Colonies into

the  
greatest

the proper Line of Direction, or on the other Hand, for want of a constant Watchfulness and nice Observation of the Beginnings and Progress of the French in America, without which it will never be in our Power to counter-act them. Their Policy is for ever fatal to us; by Dint of Management they first got Footing on Cape Breton, Newfoundland, the Fishing Banks, and the Continent; in which last Place tho' they are not near so numerous as the English, yet by Dint of Management they keep their Ground still, and are daily making fresh Acquisitions.

The English, according to the Manner of acquiring the Dominion and Property of Countries in America by the Princes of Europe, were first entitled to what France now holds in the Bay and River of St. Lawrence; but the French having upon the Marriage of King Charles I. with the Lady *Henrietta Maria*, and in other Parts of that Reign, and in the Reign of King Charles II. got that Country, and having,

having, I think, by the Indulgence of  
**Great Britain** and **Spain** both, seized on  
 and settled in Part the great River **Me-  
sissippi**, they have, by their Encroachments  
 and otherwise, extended their Territories  
 from the Mouth of that River all along on  
 the Back of the English Settlements; and  
 I should say that their whole Country, ac-  
 cording to their Claims, now lies in the  
 Form of a Crescent encompassing all the  
 English Plantations on the Continent, but  
 that they have of late so enlarged their  
 Boundaries, still artfully leaving them un-  
 certain in divers Parts, in order to favour  
 their future Encroachments, that it is dif-  
 ficult laying what Form they lie in; but  
 they have not scrupled to boast in some of  
 their Writings, that their Dominion extends  
 northward from the Mouth of the River  
**Mesissippi**, which lies between the Latitudes of  
 20 and 30, to the Arctick Circle, including  
 all that River and the adjacent Country;  
 this you are sensible makes an Extent of Do-  
 minion of about 220 Geographical, or 2440  
 English

English Miles in Length; and from the Mouth of the River St. Lawrence it extends Westward to the Californian Sea, or where they shall think fit to stop; for I think the World is wholly at a Loss to find out any Termination of their Territories that Way.

The River Mississippi, you are sensible, runs thro' a great Part of the Northern Temperate Zone; and a French Officer of good Intelligence, bred up to the Land and Sea Service, who had been 300 Leagues up that River, in a Man of War of 60 Guns, sent there by the French, in order, I suppose, to give the Natives of the Country an Idea of the Magnificence of their Government, or in Part at least on that Errand, and who had spent a considerable Time in travelling backwards and forwards on that River, lately gave me an Account that it was certainly navigable by large Ships for 800 Leagues. This Account makes it longer than the common Accounts, which make it navigable for 3000 Miles and upwards, and the French by

England

by reason of their Settlements command all the Furr Trade of that vast inland Country, which lies back upon this River, and where by their own Accounts they have Furrs at Prices exceedingly low, compar'd to the Prices given by them elsewhere, or by us any where, and which they pay for in their own Manufactures ; and what that large Country, with this navigable River running thro' the Body of it, will in Time produce 'em, I cannot say ; but doubtless they will endeavour by means of it to beat the *English* out of some of the valuable Parts of their Plantation Trade. Some *English* Writers, I know, are of Opinion that there is no great Danger to be apprehended from the Settlements of the *French* on that River, or any where on the Continent ; the River I am sensible has a Bar at the Mouth of it, which makes it necessary for them to take even their Guns out of their large Ships when they go over it, but this they look upon as a great Security against the Naval Force of their Enemies,

mies, and the other Difficulties attending it are such as have been overcome by others less enterprizing ; and I should be glad it might be remember'd, that the Facts proceeding from the Policy of the *French* do sometimes far exceed the Expectations of the *English*. Sir *Josiah Child*, tho' a Man of great Discernment, especially in Matters of Trade, was much mistaken in the Judgment he made concerning the Progress of the *French* in their Plantations; on which Account he was fully of Opinion, that they were not much to be fear'd, and yet the *French* not long after his declaring this to the World, set about the Improvement of the Plantations so heartily, and prosecuted the Matter so judiciously, that in the course of a few Years, viz. in 1701, when the *French* were become very powerful at Sea, their Council of Commerce, in their Memorial already referr'd to, was able to say to the Royal Council of that Kingdom,

“ No one is ignorant that the Navigation  
“ of *France* owes all its Increase and Splen-

( 66 )

" dor to the Commerce of it's Islands,  
" and that it cannot be kept up and en-  
" larg'd otherwise than by that Com-  
" merce." And it is, I think, a Matter  
certain, that they have taken such Measures  
touching those Islands, as have increas'd  
their Product to that degree, that they  
yield at least double the value in Sugar,  
Indigo, Ginger and Cotton, of what is now  
made by the English.

And with regard to their Claims and  
Possessions, extending from the River St.  
Lawrence on the back of the English Set-  
tlements, it is I think, difficult to deter-  
mine whether they have proceeded with  
greater Policy for themselves, or Injury and  
Danger to the English; for having got  
Canada in the manner, which has been  
mention'd, they not only enlarg'd the  
Boundaries of that Country, extending  
them far beyond the Sense that was had  
of them when they obtain'd it; but they  
have gone on continually to encrease their  
Dominion, and encroach upon the English,  
till

till at length they have planted Forts upon the several great Lakes, and done every thing in their Power towards securing them, and all the large inland Countries that encompass 'em; establishing also a Communication between their Settlements at *Canada*, and those on the River *Messippi*, for the support of the latter in particular, as well as for the spreading and strengthening of their Power in general. And as their Policy ever leads them to be perpetually Intriguing with all other Nations, with whom they have any concern; they have by their Priests, Presents, and all other practicable Methods, not only gain'd to their Interest the various Tribes of *Indians* inhabiting the inland Countries, but have also inveigled and seduced from the *English* sundry Tribes living in the midst of their Colonies. And as the Advance-  
ment of their political Purposes bears down all other Considerations, during the last Peace between the two Nations, contrary to common Justice, and the Manifest Rights

Rights of the *English*, they seiz'd a part of their Territory, and erected a Fort at *Crown-Point* in *Lake Champlain*, that is, in the heart of that Country, whereof an absolute Cession was made to the *English* by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. This Place is within a few Days March of the *English* Frontiers ; from hence they lately sally'd out with a considerable Number of the Savages, and cut off entirely the *English* Settlement at *Sorabtoga*, carrying away Captive all who were not destroy'd by Fire or Sword, to the great Terror and Risque of the City of *Albany* itself : And having got such a large Footing on the back of all our Plantations, and such Influence over the Natives, they have persuad'd them, that they only let us improve the Lands upon the Sea Coast for themselves ; and that they purpose in proper time to push us all into the Ocean. Some of the *French* Authors have been pleas'd to publish this to the World, as a wholesome and practicable piece of Policy in their Apprehensions :

sions ; and comparing their Proceedings on the Continent of *America*, with the nature and drift of their Policy (which I think evidently leads them deliberately to form, and steadily to pursue, the widest as well as the most artful Plans for the Enlargement of their Dominion, to be executed sooner or later, as the Effect of their own Management, and the course of human Events, over which they constantly keep a watchful Eye, shall present them with a fit Opportunity) their late Measures have seem'd to be calculated to advance a Design so well suited to the towering Ambition and enterprizing Spirit of that restless People. For my part, I confess, that I never had any Apprehensions, that we should be soon driven into the Ocean ; but yet I think it a matter certain, that if the Province of the *Massachusetts* had not discover'd an uncommon degree of publick Spirit, for the Preservation of *Annapolis*, and afterwards adventur'd their All in making an Expedition against *Cape Breton*, the

the English must have been directly driven out of *Annapolis*, whereby the Enemy wou'd have gain'd the Possession of all *Nova Scotia*, with 5 or 6,000 Inhabitants ready to draw the Sword for them. This addition to their Strength at *Cape Breton* and *Canada*, with the numerous Tribes of *Indians* in their Interest, would have put it in their Power, without much Difficulty, to savage the ancient Province of *Main*; to Distress, perhaps to Destroy a great part of the Province of *New Hampshire*, and to render the whole *Maine-Country* at least useless to the English, if not directly beneficial to themselves. If the Conquest of *Annapolis* had not been most happily prevented, all the *Indians* who have been wavering and doubtful which Interest to Espouse, that of the English or French, would have immediately join'd the latter. Tho' they fail'd in that Enterprize, yet by their artful Insinuations, and subtle Contrivances, they have been able very lately to shake the Fidelity of the six Nations, the  
 Ancient

Ancient Allies of the *English*; so that nothing less than the united Care and Wisdom of the several *English* Governments was able to prevent those warlike and powerful Tribes from forsaking the *English*, and joining the Enemy. Had they once got Possession of *Nova-Scotia*, a Country capable of receiving, supporting, and strengthening such Forces as should come from *France*, where they might more easily pour in their Succours at all times, as Occasions required; by uniting, encreasing, and continually exerting their Strength; they might and doubtless would have made our Colonies a Scene of Slaughter and Confusion, destroying some and distressing all; and raising their Interest upon the ruins of the *English*. In short, had *Nova-Scotia* been lost to us, and *Cape Breton* preserv'd to the Enemy, fatal, very fatal must have been the Effects to the *British* Interests in *America*.

Upon the whole, considering that what was heretofore said of others is more true

of the *French*, “ That in some Parts they  
 “ supplant us, and every where outwit us ;  
 “ that we find them enterprizing, vigilant,  
 “ and jealous in whatever has Relation to  
 “ their Trade ; and observe them still en-  
 “ deavouring to get Ground, and never  
 “ yielding any Point to us, but forming long  
 “ Schemes, calculated to take Effect many  
 “ Years to come, in order to enlarge them-  
 “ selves at our Expence ; so that it be-  
 “ comes good Patriots to look about them,  
 “ and to take care, lest in Time *England*  
 “ Should be in a Manner excluded from  
 “ the Commercial World.” †— And con-  
 sidering the Importance of the Colonies to  
*Great Britain*, and of the Trade from  
 thence, together with the Fishery carry’d  
 on there, what Wealth they produce, what  
 Ships they employ, and what Seamen they  
 raise, and also what Vent they give to all  
 your Manufactures, so great that there are  
 few Towns in the Kingdom, wherein any  
 Trade

† This was laid of the *Dutch* in the Inspector General’s Report to the Commissioners for publick Accounts in the latter Part of Queen Anne’s Reign.

Trade or Manufacture is carry'd on, which have not a Dependance on the Plantation Trade—Considering how necessary the Colonies are for the Preservation of this Kingdom in its full Power and Glory; and how much the Welfare of our Colonies, and the Security of all the *British American* Commerce was endanger'd by the Enemy's Possession of *Cape Breton*.—In a Word, considering what a powerful Instrument this Place was in the Hands of the Enemy, for the Advancement of their ruinous Designs, and the Destruction of the *British* Interests, it must Sir, I think, be confess'd, that *Cape Breton* was a Place of the last Importance to *Great Britain*.

I am with the greatest Respect,

S. I. R.

Your most obedient Servant,

MASSACHUSETTENSIS.